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CREDITON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1962.



Medical Officer of Health

N.F. SAWERS, M.B., Ch.B.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

L.W. BLAKE, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk

Mrs. P.M. Gill.

Mr. Chairman & Members of the
Crediton Urban District Council.

I have the honour to present the report for 1962.

Again during this year the Council had no water troubles but the sewerage improvement has still not reached the construction stage and causes concern.

I attended the Conference of Medical Officers of Health held at Ivybank, Exeter on the 20th February, 1962 where the matter of fluoridation of water supplies was discussed. The majority of Council's in Devon have agreed to the principle of fluoridation as recommended by the Ministry of Health and Dental Advisory Board of England. It is my hope that our Council will in time follow this example.

Mr. Blake has completed part of the report which again has been produced by Mrs. Gill.

I am, Madam & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

N.F. SAWERS.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	1,096
Registrar General's estimate of population ...	4,420
No. of inhabited houses at the end of 1962 according to the rate book	1,487
Rateable Value	£68,924
Product of a Penny Rate	£252

2. VITAL STATISTICS

(a) Live Births

Male	Female	Total
33	32	65

Births illegitimate

Male	Female	Total
-	3	3

Crude birth rate per 1,000 of population	12.90
Corrected birth rate per 1,000 of population	12.38

(b) Still Births.

There were no still births in 1962.

(c) Deaths.

(a) Death Rate.

Male	Female	Total
22	30	52

Average age of death 66.8 years.

Crude death rate per 1,000 of population 17.65

Corrected death rate per 1,000 of population 14.12

(b) Deaths from puerperal causes. Nil

(c) Infantile Mortality.

(Deaths of infants under one year of age). 2

(d) Causes of death as follows:-

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-
All Causes	M	22					9	5	8
	F	30	2	1		1	3	6	17
Tuberculosis	M	1					1		
Respiratory	F	-							
Malignant	M	1							1
Neoplasm Stomach	F	1					1		
Malignant	M	1							1
Neoplasm Lung	F	-							
Malignant	M	-							
Neoplasm Breast	F	1							1

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-
Malignant Neoplasm	M	2							2
Other Areas	F	6				1		1	4
Diabetis	M	-							
	F	2							2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	2					1		1
	F	5					1		4
Coronary Thrombosis & Angina	M	7					4	2	1
	F	4						3	1
Hypertension with Heart Disease	M	-							
	F	1						1	
Other Heart Disease	M	4					2	1	1
	F	8		1			1	1	5
Influenza	M	2						2	
	F	-							
Respiratory & Pneumonic Diseases	M	1							1
	F	1	1						
Accident	M	1					1		
	F	1	1						

SECTION B

3. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

a. Nursing Service.

A resident District Nurse employed by the Devon County Council adequately provides this service.

b. Care of Mothers and Young Children.

These are visited at home by 2 Devon County Council Health Visitors.

c. Maternity & Child Welfare Services.

The District Nurse Midwife working in co-operation with the General Practitioners provide the basis for ante-natal care, confinement and post natal care. In addition Home Helps are provided by the Devon County Council in appropriate cases.

In cases where home conditions are unsuitable confinement arrangements are made for the mother to go to Redhills Hospital, Exeter.

Child Welfare and Maternity Clinics are held at Newcombes weekly and during 1962 attendances were as follows:-

<u>Infants</u>	<u>Toddlers</u>	<u>Children 2 - 5</u>	<u>Total</u>
881	425	693	1999

Vaccinations, diphtheria and poliomyelitis immunisations are available at this Clinic but a fuller use could be made of the service.

d. Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases.

There are no centres in Crediton for these diseases. Cases of Tuberculosis are seen by the Tuberculosis Officer at Ivybank, Exeter and he then decides whether they are nursed at home or sent to Hawkmoor Sanatorium.

Mass Radiography.

Sessions in Crediton are arranged at regular intervals and almost the whole population has now been screened.

e. Infectious Diseases.

These are nursed at home and if the Doctor in attendance considers they should be transferred to hospital they are removed to Whipton Isolation Hospital.

f. Ambulances.

The Devon County Council control the ambulance service and at present one ambulance is station in Crediton and run by the Crediton Branch of the Red Cross.

g. Laboratory Works.

All laboratory examinations .required are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter or the department of Pathology at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital.

SECTION C

4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

a. Sewerage.

Another year has brought no positive action on the new sewerage scheme although it brought extreme difficulties in running the existing works.

It seems that the sense of urgency which is felt by the Councillors, the sense of extreme urgency felt by the Council's Officers does not penetrate the Consulting Engineers or the Ministry of Housing & Local Government.

Although the initial scheme was approved by the Urban District Council in April, 1961 second bites at the cherry by the Consulting Engineers of the Council and the County Council have resulted in amendments to the scheme with the result that the end of 1962 has still brought no approval from the Ministry.

It now seems that it will be mid-summer before tenders are sought and at least autumn 1963 before any work is started. If the Officers of the Ministry and the Consulting Engineers had to manage with the conditions as exist for the Council's Officers the new works would have already been installed for certain.

June brought a disaster in the works as due to the collapse of a bank in the sludge settling area thick sludge gained access to the Rivers Creedy and Yeo with the consequence of high fish mortality. Although land irrigation is constantly being carried out this sort of occurrence is always a risk.

It is hoped that perhaps the urgency of the new work will now be appreciated in all quarters and a speed up of the new scheme brought about.

Sewer extensions were carried out to Blagdon Estate and Pounds Hill which allows for additional development.

With the future limits of the town now settled it would seem that Threshers Pumping Station will prove sufficient for the western area of the district.

b. Water.

Although water consumption in the district rose by about $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ during the year the existing sources again proved their worth and no restrictions were required.

Water extracted from each source was:-

Uton Borehole	48,654,000 gals.
Walson Adit	41,005,400 gals.
Newcombes Borehole	<u>8,129,350 gals.</u>
	<u>97,788,750 gals.</u>

Water supplied by meter during the year totalled 32,333,070 gals or an average of 88,583 gallons per day. Average daily consumption during the year was 267,900 g.p.d.

During the year 77 samples were taken with the following results:-

	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Uton (raw water)	16	16	-
Uton (after treatment)	23	22	1
Walson (raw water)	19	16	3
Walson (after treatment)	19	18	1
	<u>77</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>5</u>

In the case of the Uton treated unsatisfactory sample it was found after investigation that the tap sampled received it's water through a storage cistern and not direct from the main. The Walson treated unsatisfactory sample was proved to be a fault in the chlorinator.

During the year the main extension from Forches Corner to Jockey Hill allowed for a large increased pressure to an area where complaints had been received of a poor supply.

c. Public Conveniences.

No major steps forward was made in 1962 to improve the standard of public conveniences and although all conveniences were made free during the year no increase was found in the wilful damage committed.

d. Refuse Collection.

Few complaints were received during the year and the Council's refuse collection service provided adequate cover for the district.

After the clean up of various unsatisfactory containers a few years ago, more and more open top containers are finding their way to the kerbside and the Council's service of providing dustbins at a small annual charge needs more publicity to clean up these untidy and unsanitary methods of refuse storage.

The Council's tip should by 1963 show the start of controlled tipping but even in it's present state no complaints were received during the year.

e. Rodent Control.

The rodent control service was continued during 1962 and the following work carried out:-

<u>Properties</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Visits.</u>
Private	15	26	28
Business	Nil	Nil	Nil
Council	1	1	1

In addition 49 properties were surveyed under the Act.

e. Sanitary Inspections.

(a) Summary of Visits.

Council Properties	255
Private Houses	131
Food Premises	55
Slaughterhouses	159
Other Premises	135

(b) Notices Served.

Housing Acts.

Time & Place Notices	1 property
Undertaking given not to re-let	1 property

Public Health Acts.

Dangerous Building	3 properties.
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<u>Informal Notices</u>	3
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SECTION D

5. HOUSING.

General Housing.

No Council houses were completed during the year but six one-bedroom flats are under construction.

The Council are to be congratulated on acquiring and developing Blagdon Estate which will enable self-builders to erect houses in their own time. The estate was laid out with roads and sewers and early starts should now be made on building.

The following private houses were completed during the year:-

Two Bedrooms	4
Three Bedrooms	<u>9</u>
	<u>13</u>

The start of development in Newcombes by the Housing Association is likely to provide several units of accommodation for the elderly in coming years and the completion of two bungalows for retired Clergy made a start to this scheme. Progress here during the year was:-

Completed	2
Under construction	6

With the sudden surge that started mid-way during the year it is likely that private housing schemes will speed up considerably in 1963.

Slum Clearance.

Two houses still remain occupied in slum clearance areas but two further houses were demolished.

The position with regard to the 16 Clearance Areas at 31st December, 1962 is:-

No. of houses in Clearance Areas	87
No. still occupied	2
No. demolished	62

With regard to other unfit houses 12 were demolished in the year as follows:-

Local Authority owned houses	4
Private Houses	8

Housing List.

The position at the end of 1962 was:-

No. on Council Waiting List already resident in the Urban District.	86
No. on Council Waiting List wanting to move into the District.	<u>26</u>
Total	<u>112</u>

Accommodation required by these families is:-

One Bedroom	56
Two Bedrooms	27
Three Bedrooms	<u>29</u>
	<u>112</u>

Building Byelaws.

The following inspections were made to enforce the Council's Building Byelaws:-

Foundations	37
Oversite concrete	18
Damp-proof course	25
Drains	43
Routine	94
Completion	47

Improvement Grants.

One application was received for a Discretionary Grant and this was refused.

Six applications for Standard Grants were received and five were approved.

Details of Grants made during the year are:-

No. of Properties	6
Amount of Grants	£733
No. of Baths	5
No. of wash-basins	5
No. of hot water systems	5
No. of W.C.'s	4
No. of larders	5

Caravan Sites.

The site at Glencreeedy continues to be maintained satisfactory whilst the appeal for the High Street site has still not been decided.

Rent Act, 1957.

No applications were received during the year either by landlords or tenants.

SECTION E

6. FOOD AND DRUGS.

During the year the following food was voluntarily surrendered for condemnation:-

10 tins meat (various)
34 tins fruit (various)
6 stone cod fillets.
4 tins peas.
5 jars jam.
2 tins beverages.
2 tins beans.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb butter.
1 jar red cabbage.
1 jar pickles.
1 bottle coffee.
1 tin sardines.
1 bottle sauce.
1 tin carrots.

Ice Cream.

At the end of the year 25 premises were registered.

Samples were taken during the year with the following results:-

Grade I	23
Grade II	3

Food Hygiene Regulations.

Traders still are making reasonable attempts to comply with the above Regulations.

Slaughter of Animals.

159 visits were made to the Slaughterhouse during the year and the following carcasses and offal were inspected:-

	1962	1961	1960
Cattle	314	236	277
Calves	10	7	5
Sheep	905	707	607
Pigs	682	409	509

The following carcasses were condemned:-

- 1 Pig (degeneration)
- 1 Sheep (punctured gut)
- 1 Lamb (casualty)
- 4 Bovine Livers (flukes)
- 7 Sets Pigs Lungs (pneumonia)

SECTION F

7. FACTORIES.

47 factories were on the register in 1962 and 25 inspections were carried out.

Outworkers lists as supplied in August with the following details:-

Light Textiles	20
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Flare Parachutes	7
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Six of these outworkers resided in the Urban District.

One additional outworker was notified from another authority and this person was engaged in knitting.

Appendix 1
Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned.
In Whole or in Part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	314	Nil	10	905	682	Nil
Number Inspected	314	Nil	10	905	682	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whole Carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	Nil	Nil	2	8	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than <u>tuberculosis and cysticerci</u>	1.274	Nil	Nil	.221	1.173	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

